

REMARKS

Claims 1-17, as amended, appear in this application for the Examiner's review and consideration. The claims have been amended to more clearly define the scope of coverage sought by the present application. All of the amended claims are supported by the specification, claims and figures are originally filed. As these amendments do not introduce any new matter, their entry at this time is warranted.

Claims 1-17 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as obvious over U.S. patent no. 3,700,230 to Cook in view of U.S. patent no. 6,484,442 to Weder for the reasons stated on pages 2 and 3 of the Office Action. It was asserted that Cook shows a method and system for folding a flexible sheet by mold means but does not show the folding material to be for a flower wrap or the fastening means and visual indicia as claimed. Weder was said to disclose a sheet of material with an unfolded position and a second folded position, a plurality of lines to fold the sheet of material in a pre-defined sequence, visual indicia and fastening means and that it is known to use dies to form flower wraps. Applicant asserts that this rejection is misplaced, has been overcome and should be withdrawn for the reasons that follow.

Cook is directed to a map folding machine that uses a complex apparatus containing a mandrel that has a plurality of faces and a fixed die member that has surfaces that mate with the mandrel. Although the machine will operate with a completely flat sheet of paper, it is preferable that the paper first be folded by hand or machine to have a single center crease.

By contrast, the present invention, as currently amended, is directed to systems and methods for creating folded flower wraps from a flexible sheet of material that is capable of being positioned in a first unfolded position and a second folded position corresponding to the folded flower wrap using a plurality of separate molds. Each mold is arranged to cover a portion of the sheet of material and to define one or more distinct lines to fold the sheet of material across. By sequentially placing one or more of the plurality of molds in contact with the sheet of material and folding the sheet of material across each one of the molds, the sheet of material is moved from the first position to the second position.

As was stated in the Office Action, Cook is not directed to and does not disclose folded flower wraps or methods for making folded flower wraps. Cook uses a complicated machine containing a mandrel and a corresponding die to fold maps. The mandrel and die work at the same time and in conjunction to create the desired folds in the map. There is no teaching or disclosure in Cook to use the mandrel and die either separately or sequentially, i.e.

one after the other, to fold the map. Therefore, there is no teaching or disclosure in Cook regarding a plurality of separate molds wherein each mold is arranged to define one or more distinct lines to fold the sheet of material across. In fact, both the die and mandrel do not define distinct lines but exactly the same lines and arc used in conjunction as a single die and mandrel apparatus and not as separate molds. Therefore, one of ordinary skill in the art looking for systems and methods to produce folded flower wraps would not look to Cook. In fact, even given the disclosure of Cook, one of ordinary skill in the art would not anticipate success in creating the system or using the method for making the folded flower wraps of the present invention.

The dependent claims contain additional recitations that further define the present invention over Cook. For example, claim 2 recites that the sheet of material includes at least one partially folded position between the first and second folded positions. In addition, the plurality of molds include a first mold arranged to be brought into contact with the sheet of material in the first unfolded position and a second mold arranged to be brought into contact with the sheet of material in the partially folded position. Claim 3 recites that each mold is a substantially two dimensional object. There is no teaching or suggestion of these recitations in Cook.

The shortcomings of Cook are not remedied by reference to Weder. Weder is directed to sheets of material having forming indicia for forming into flower pot or plant covers and teaches that any thickness of the sheet of material may be utilized ... as long as the sheet of material is wrappable about an object such as a flower pot or a plant contained in a growing medium (col. 4, lines 30-33). The decorative cover is created by folding, gathering and/or crimping the sheet of material as designated by the forming indicia. Moreover, the object of the invention in Weder is to provide a quick and easy way to form a decorative cover from a sheet of material without the use of a mold (Col. 2, lines 5-7).

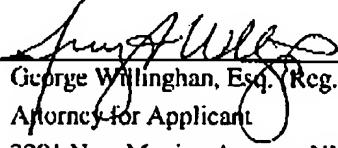
Therefore, one of ordinary skill in the art looking for molds to create folded flower wraps would not look to Weder, because Weder is expressly directed to forming sheets of material without the use of a mold. Even given the disclosure of Weder in conjunction with Cook, one of ordinary skill in the art would not anticipate success in practicing the system or method of the present invention, because Weder neither discloses nor teaches various features of the present invention. For example, Weder fails to disclose or teach a plurality of separate molds, each mold defining one or more distinct lines. In fact, Weder fails to disclose

any type of mold. Moreover, there is no teaching or suggestion in Weder of visual indicia arranged to indicate the folding sequence and to facilitate proper alignment of each mold with the flexible sheet of material as currently recited in claim 7. Therefore, the rejections of claims 1-17 under 103(a) with respect to Cook in view of Weder have been overcome and should be withdrawn.

Applicant asserts that all claims are now in condition for allowance, early notification of which is respectfully requested. A petition for a one month extension of time from February 23, 2005 to and including March 23, 2005 for submission of this Amendment along with provisions for the payment of the prescribed fee is enclosed herewith. No additional fees are believed due for the submission of this amendment since the total number of claims amended is less than 20 and the total number of independent claims is less than 3.

Respectfully submitted,

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Enclosures